

California GARDEN

FIFTIETH YEAR

SPRING, 1959

VOL. 50, NO. 1



Palms, *Erythea Brandegeei*, in the Palisades Area, Balboa Park. (See page 7).
Photograph by George E. Lindsay.

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Floral Association groups and affiliates who wish to use the Floral Building, are asked to check the calendar there by calling BE 2-5767, or Mrs. Thacher at HO 6-1797.

San Diego Floral Association Activities

Visitors Always Welcome

Seedling Garden Classes, ages 7 to 12
Floral Building, Balboa Park
April 4 and 18, 10:00-12:00 a.m.
May 9, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bring Lunch.
Flower Show and Mother's Day Tea
June 6, 10:00-1:00. Bring Lunch.
Instructor: Mrs. Ernest Ambort, Chm.
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Tuesday, March 31 2:00 p.m.
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Floral Building, Balboa Park
Speaker: Marjorie Rankin of Van Nuys.
Lecturer and member of Floral Designer's Club.
Subject: Flower Arrangement Demonstration and Lecture.
Tea Chairman: Mrs. Martin Haulman

Tuesday, April 21 8:00 p.m.
Regular meeting of the A. F. D. A.
Floral Building, Balboa Park
Speaker: Dr. Samuel Ayers Jr., Trustee of California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.
Subject: Recent Plant Introductions.

Membership in the San Diego Floral Association includes a subscription to California Garden. Classification of memberships: Annual, \$3.00; Family, \$5.00; Sustaining, \$5.00; Contributing, \$25.00, and Life Membership, \$100.00. Memberships and gifts are deductible from income tax.

Tuesday, May 19 8:00 p.m.
Regular meeting of the S. D. F. A.
Floral Building, Balboa Park
Speaker: Mildred F. Davis, landscape architect and garden consultant. On the staff of U.C. Extension courses, U.C.L.A.
Subject: Ground Covers.

Every Tuesday, April 21 through May 26
Floral Building, Balboa Park 10:00 a.m.
Six Intermediate Flower Arrangement Classes.
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Fourth Monday of each month . . . 9:30 a.m.
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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 2333) of CALIFORNIA GARDEN published quarterly at San Diego, California for Winter, 1958. Publisher: San Diego Floral Association, Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Editor: Alice M. Clark.

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On The Trail Of Mexican Wild Flowers

EDITH H. BANGHART

Writer and lecturer on Alpine and Native Wildflowers.

Beautiful is the countryside of Mexico, with its gleaming wild shrubbery bordering the estuaries, its natural coastal beauty, with inland bays and tiny islands lining the shorelines, and its untamed woods and jungles. Many are the handsome trees, hundreds of years old, but the most thrilling sight is the glory of the wildflowers on the deserts and hillsides, after the cessation of the rains in the early fall. This is an account of a trip I took during the five months from October through February. While I journeyed down the western slopes of the states of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, and the border of Colima, I photographed colorful plants from the desert to an elevation of 4000 feet in the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Many of the flowers mentioned here may be seen from a fast-moving bus, but the true flower lover should make use of a second-class bus, which usually traverses the sections east and west of the main highways. That way he can reach the tiny pueblos and villas in the outlying hills. Taking one's time, sauntering along, making use of burro trails and other bypaths, is much more satisfying to one who wishes to enjoy the natural scenic beauty of the country.

Starting from Nogales, in the beautiful state of Sonora, which borders the U.S.A., and driving

south to Hermosillo, one passes through a fantastic array of desert flora. The strong majestic pillars of the mammoth pipe-organ cactus, *Pachycereus marginatus*, stand out like great sentinels. For color there are red-flowering ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*, the blues and grays of many other ornamental cacti, and hundreds of lily-white blooms on the yuccas.

Approaching the city of Hermosillo, one glimpses a hazy lake far off in the distance; close up it becomes a veritable sea of dainty baby-blue-eyes, *Nemophila menziesii (insignis)*. From Hermosillo to Bocoibampo Bay, and thence to Guaymas, one sees countless other vivid flower masses composed of sand verbenas (abronias), yarrows (achillea), tiny blue asters, pimpernels (anagallis), in several colors, bright blue gillias and camomile (anthemis). Golden poppies (eschscholzia), silenes, tiny lupins, pink, white and gleaming yellow marigolds vie with each other for a place in the sun.

As one journeys into the higher and more tropical regions, one discovers that the "travelling plants", as the creepers are called in Mexico, become more lush and leafy. They develop spiral tentacles, spurs and other horny growths to help them climb the thorny leguminous bushes, ceiba trees, and other props."

There is an extensive list of flower favorites, popular in the United States today, that originated in Mexico. It is an impressive experience to come in contact with them again, as they spread out in wild abandon over their native habitat.

From Guaymas, all along the highway, one sees the picturesque vine, *Antigonon leptopus*, or "Rosa de Monte", as the Mexicans call it, twining rose-colored racemes among the purples and blues of convolvulus.

On leaving Guaymas, the main highway leads to Navajoa. There one turns off onto an improved road heading for the very old town of Alamos, a quaint historical little villa, sitting like a beautiful jewel in a setting of grandeur among the mountains. Along the road to Alamos the way is lined with portulacas, beautiful blue flax (linum) and *Sedum mexicanum*. The hillsides are radiant with exotic red and yellow blooms of the shrubby *Caesalpinia mexicana*, and the ornate orange and yellow flowers of *Cassia tomentosa*.

Returning from Alamos, and back on the main highway to Culiacan, in the state of Sinaloa, one is ever conscious of the deep blue and lavender *Ageratum houstonianum*, that covers the slopes for miles, and is often in colorful contrast to the red earth.

There are scattered specimens of *Abelia floribunda*, with deep reddish purple blooms, more highly colored than those we find in cultivation. Hundreds of mariposa lilies, *Calochortus vestae*, hug the sandy banks. The blue and lavender Mexican dayflowers, *Commelina coelestis*, climb happily over cactus and other bushes, as one continues the journey to Mazatlan and its outstanding wildflowers.

There are sweeps of mountain laurel, called 'Frijolillo' or 'Mescal Bean'; many are the bushes of the white-barked, bluish-flowered 'Smoke Tree', *Dalea spinosa*, and the lacy yellow 'Palo Verde', *Cercidium floridum* (*torreyana*). Luxuriant drifts of *Fremontia mexicana*, with attractive gray-green foliage, are covered with brilliant orange and yellow blooms. Specimens of *Datura suaveolens* are also noted.

Exquisite achimenes, with purple and lavender trumpets grow in ferny locations, along with big-spurred columbine (*aquilegia*).

Leaving Mazatlan, on the way to Tepic, we enter the state of Nayarit. After passing through the little village of Acaponeta, take a road down to Santiago, Ixt. There it is possible to go by bus to a landing stage made of old Indian "dug-out" canoes, from which one can be punted across the lazy tropical waters to the very ancient "Isla de Mexcoltitan", whose inhabitants are said to have ancestors who came over in "junks"

from China, hundreds of years ago.

Crossing the lagoon to the island, one is literally surrounded by masses of gorgeous, large-flowered water hyacinths, *Eichornia crassipes*, in vivid blue, and the alluring pink, white and yellow waterlilies that cast their reflections all around. Myriads of gay-plumaged water birds rise lazily in flight, as the canoe slips among them.

A few miles along the main highway, after leaving Santiago, brings one to the town of San Blas. This tropical section abounds in palms, tree ferns, gorgeous flowering trees and colorful shrubs. Proceeding up the jungle from Tovar, near San Blas, one comes upon specimens of a glistening orchid of the epidendrum type, very picturesque among the tall tree ferns.

In this same area are countless orchid-like flowers of a vivid orange-red that completely cover large trees. Upon close examination they are found to be air plants, or epiphytes, which live on the moisture in the air. Plants of the wandering jew family, *Tradescantia crassifolia*, enjoy this damp atmosphere too. They have deep blue flowers, more than an inch and a half across.

Many tree-mallows (*lavaterias*) with large, highly-colored flowers, and the rosy false mallow, *Malvastrum fasciculatum*, grow on the beach areas, along with lovely blue polemoniums and purplish

Gilia dianthoides (*Linanthus dianthaeflorus*).

Having driven past beautiful specimens of acacia and the guaiacum, or 'Lignum Vitae' trees, with rosy-blue flowers, we are back on the highway from Santa Blas to Tepic. Extending for miles on all sides are great fields of gaudy orange and yellow coreopsis, framed by pink and purple cosmos.

The dahlia, which is a favorite flower in our cultivated gardens, grows wild in many sections of Mexico. Particularly brilliant is the piercing red and orange *Dahlia coccinea*.

Ceanothus coerules (*azureus*) spreads its skyblue daintiness across the hillsides in the states of Sinaloa and Nayarit. As one approaches Tepic, it is thrilling to see hundreds of flaming red-flowered *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, well known as our Christmas poinsettia. They grow high up along the bluffs, while lovely lily-white matilija-poppies *Romneya coulteri*, grace the canyons. As an extra bonus there are fields of luminous blue, composed of lupins, salvias and flax (*linums*), interwoven with thousands of pink and white lopezias (*mosquito flower*), and accented with a yellow profusion of African marigolds. *Tagetes erecta*, and the hairy *Lithospermum angustifolium*. In sandy places there are masses of highly-colored rose sabatias.

On the rocky shores from Tepic to Guadalajara, the golden hues



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of a shrubby member of the Helianthus family are interspersed with the glowing red and orange of the *Lantana camara*, and a dwarf lavender type. In low places along the roadside, the beebalm, *Monarda fistulosa* grows three to four feet high, with striking blossoms of deep crimson, several inches across. In moist locations, at an altitude of 3000 feet, there are blue gentians, *Exacum affine*.

Red and cream cupheas abound here and on the shores of Lake Chapala, in the state of Jalisco. About an hour's ride from the beautiful old city of Guadalajara—second largest in Mexico—countless evergreen shrubs of *Choisya ternata*, called 'Mexican Orange,' because of its white clusters of fragrant flowers, perfume the countryside.

While in this locality, a side trip to the ancient villa of Manzanillo is recommended, not only for its historical landmarks, but for its singularly beautiful flora. There are many unusual types of wildflowers there, including brilliant orchids. Tropical birds vie with the colorful plant array.

Everywhere in Mexico one is impressed with the beauty of the trees. The white-flowered 'Amapa' is seen in many sections, as is *Arc-tostaphylos polifolia*, or 'Madrono', with red blooms. *Ipomea arborescens*, 'Morning-glory Tree', is completely leafless at this season, while it is covered with white flowers. Handsome are the cordias, or 'Stricotes,' which have large white trumpet-shaped blooms. The spreading branches of *Ceiba pentrandra* bear rose-tinted flowers.

Several states boast large *Ficus petiolaris*, the so-called 'Fig tree', which has exceptionally lustrous foliage and white trunks. The new leaves of *Mabonia pinnata* are a contrast to the bright red old leaves of late winter. Eucalyptus, with reddish-yellow flowers are outstanding. *Jacaranda acutifolia*

Time for Tuberous Begonias

DOROTHY S. BEHREND

Tubers form at the base of seedling tuberous begonia plants when they have finished their season's cycle of growth.

The tubers now available have been kept in a cool, dry place during October, November and December, as that is their normal dormant or resting period.

The concave or hollowed side of the tuber is the top-side. That is where the stalks or growth will form. The convex or rounded side is where the roots will grow.

As the tuber awakens to its growing period, it will produce "buds" on the concave side, usually pink. That is the time to nestle the tubers into a bed of dampened peat moss or leaf mold, one half their depth. (Some growers are now advocating deeper planting.) They can be set out in a flat or wide shallow pot, depending on the number of tubers you have.

Place the container with the dampened rooting medium in a semi-darkened location, and wait for the roots to develop. Lack of light will discourage top growth, and favor root growth. Warmth

will speed the process. As soon as the leaves begin to grow the flat should be moved into bright shade, to prevent the plant from becoming spindly. By gently lifting the tubers it may be determined when it is time to plant or pot them. When the roots are about two inches long, the tuber is ready to move. A large amount of peat will adhere to the roots as they are lifted. Leave it on.

Begonia roots always grow horizontally, in comparison with other plants. Therefore, a wide shallow pot of nine inches or more, is recommended. Place ample pieces of broken pots over the drainage holes, and fill the pots two thirds full of previously prepared soil mix. Use 1/3 dampened peat moss, 1/3 sandy loam, and 1/3 coarse leafmold or well decayed compost, for a well drained mix.

The new leaves of the begonia always point to the front. Put the rooted tuber gently on the mixture in the pot and place a ten or twelve inch stake at the back, to act as a support later. Fill in around the new roots, being careful to leave

is ravishing with fern-like foliage and striking blue-flowered clusters. I noted two varieties of the hawthorn (crataegus), or 'Tejocote', to give it its Mexican name. It is a very large shrub, with exceedingly dense thorns and foliage.

The imposing mango tree, *Mangifera indica*, has white flowers that later develop into an edible fruit that is much prized in the state of Jalisco, as is also the luscious fruit of the 'Annona', which we know as the 'Chirimoya', or custard-apple. In the southern sections, one finds the

'Royal Poinciana,' *Delonix regia*. It is a regal sight when showered with flamboyant blossoms.

I hope others will be inspired to make this colorful, and most rewarding trek into western Mexico, when the wild-flowers are in bloom. There are few books on Mexican plants, but I found *Trees and Shrubs of Mexico*, by Paul C. Standley, and *Rio Mayo Plants*, by H. S. Gentry, helpful.

The new Edith Banghart Unit in the Arboretum of the University of Washington, was named for this author. Mrs. Banghart is a Life Honorary Member of both the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs and the Alpine and Wild Flower Society of Great Britain. Her illustrated lecture on Mexican Wildflowers will be available this fall.

the top third of the tuber above the soil line. Water well and place in a well-ventilated, semi-shaded location, where there is no wind.

Keep these plants damp but NOT wet. The supporting stake is placed in the container at potting time, so that the tuber will not be damaged later by being pierced accidentally, causing root rot.

Several years ago a powdery mildew attacked begonias, especially the tuberous variety. It has taken time to perfect a remedy to control this blight. A new product, Doo-Spray, is really effective. It contains karathane and dithane, which approach the problems differently from other sprays. Keep a wide-mouthed gallon jar on hand, containing a ready-mixed supply. It is then easy to fill a squeeze hand spray and apply at the first sign of any mildew.

A liquid fish fertilizer used at HALF STRENGTH, as recommended on the label, once a week, is very beneficial. Do not apply the fertilizer directly on the tuber, but on the surrounding soil. If the leaves have a glazed look, they are over-fertilized.

If a plant is leggy, with little bloom, more light is required. It is well to remove (and root as cuttings, if you wish) all but two or three stalks on the tuber, so the leaves do not crowd the blooms.

Drying conditions and wind will cause buds to drop. A cool moist atmosphere must be maintained to insure success with these worthwhile flowers.

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Indispensible Handbook for Southern California Gardeners

REVIEWED BY EDWARD F. ROACH

Instructor in Ornamental Horticulture, San Diego Junior College.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS, by Roland Stewart Hoyt. *Livingston Press, San Diego, California, 1959. \$8.00.*

This new edition promises to succeed its predecessors, as possibly the most valued book on the shelves of southern California landscape architects and plantmen. Some of the unique qualities which make it so valuable are:

1. **Localization.** Only plants suitable for subtropical regions are considered. The book thus covers plants suitable for Florida and California and the thin strip of the far south connecting them.
2. **Check Lists.** These lists remind the reader of old reliables, and stimulate his investigation of new plants suitable for every conceivable landscape use. There are 176 lists of plants in all, covering such diverse characteristics and uses as: "Palms", "Weeping Trees", "Carpeting Perennials", "Sun Loving Plants", "Pest Free Plants", "Street Trees", "Foundation Planting", and "Oriental Effects."
3. **Plant Ratings.** A single asterisk (*) indicates plants which are most reliable for general use. Increasing asterisks (**) or (***) indicate increasing risk of failure unless full knowledge of the plant needs are taken into account.
4. **A Compendium.** This gives a short description and evaluation of each plant mentioned in the check lists, and is usually accompanied by an ink drawing in the margin, to establish the plant's identity.
5. **An Exhaustive Index.** The reader learns the character of a plant from the various lists on which it earns a billing, and thus constructs a *plant portrait* in his mind.

Roland Hoyt knew most of the ornamental plants grown in these parts thirty years ago. He has sharpened his understanding of their character and landscape use over the years since, by regular application of the senses of a trained plantsman and of a skilled landscape architect. (B.S. Horticulture, Iowa State College, 1915; Harvard School of Landscape Design, 1916, 1917.)

Mr. Hoyt is keenly aware of ecological relationships, and his lists reflect a long attempt to find plants nicely adapted to particular landscape environments. This new edition covers about 2200 species and varieties, with about 500 new species added to the 1938 edition. The check lists have been reworked and the plant descriptions have been rewritten. All of which reflects the growth of the author and his profession since the excellent first edition came out twenty-one years ago. As Dr. Stoutemeyer says, in his foreword to this book: "We are fortunate to share in the richness of his (Hoyt's) experience."

The story behind the writing of this book has some of the quality of Hemingway's "The Old Man And The Sea". Roland Hoyt has known that he has had a significant work on his hands since he undertook the writing of the first edition. He has since rewritten the manuscript, typed it up himself, made the drawings, and even underwritten the printing and sale

Fifty Trees For Golf Courses

CHAUNCY I. JERABEK

The San Diego Tree Man

This article presents a list of fifty trees which are suitable for coastal golf courses. Most of these trees will thrive from Santa Barbara southward, but I am confining my remarks to those in San Diego County.

Fortunately the landscape architects of this area, can have trees from nearly every country in the world. As maintenance is the greatest factor on the golf green, the choice should not be haphazard. Consideration should be given to the problem of which trees are the most practical. Personally, I would not plant one deciduous tree on a golf course, no matter how attractive the foliage, or how gorgeous the flowers.

All fifty of the trees on the following lists are adaptable for this area, but much will depend on the local situation for success. The more tender type of trees planted on the mesa, without doubt will be more hardy than the same kind of trees planted in the valleys, where occasional frosts do occur. These slight freezes would not kill the trees, but the newer growth might be nipped, thereby creating a pruning job. As the keepers of all golf courses are continually watering and fertilizing, to keep the turf verdant, naturally the trees are benefited, and produce a more tender growth.

Palms are very ornamental —

they always impart a tropical effect. Those on the following list are wholly adapted to our climate.

Palms For Tropical Feeling

Erythea armata, Mexican Blue Palm; *E. brandegeei*, Hesper Palm; *E. edulis*, Guadalupe Palm; *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, Seafortia elegans; *Butia capitata*, Pindo or Jelly Palm; *Howea forsteriana*, Thatch Palm; *Jubaea spectabilis*, Syrup Palm; *Phoenix dactylifera*, Date Palm of commerce; *P. sylvestris*, India Date Palm; *Sabal palmetto*, Cabbage Palmetto; *Trachycarpus excelsa*, Windmill Palm; *Washingtonia filifera*, California Fan Palm.

Strelitzia nicolai, Giant Bird-of-Paradise and *Cordyline australis*, sometimes called Green Dracena or Cabbage-tree, are two other tree-like plants, often included in tropical plantings.

For successful transplanting of palms, follow these instructions.

How to Transplant Palms

First, before digging, remove all green leaves, except a few at the crown.

Second, dig out the root with a small ball of dirt; move to new location where a good hole has already been prepared for it. Plant and water thoroughly.

Washingtonia palms can be moved bare-rooted, providing from ten to fifteen inches of roots

still remain on the trunk. Any tall palms should be securely braced or tied until they have sufficient new roots to hold them upright. When transplanting palms, keep in mind that they should not be planted any deeper in the new location than they were originally.

It is claimed that palms should only be transplanted in the heat of the summer. This is a mistaken idea. In Balboa Park, during 1934, and also through 1938, in the area that is now called "The Palisades," my men and I transplanted a number of palms, of several varieties. Not one of them died as a result of the moving, although some were transplanted in the coldest and wettest months. Today, these same palms are healthy, and growing well. The palms shown on the cover page were denuded and moved from a planting in a barranca (Spanish name for canyon) near the northeast corner of the Bowling Green, where many more of the same kind may still be seen today.

Recommended Evergreen Trees

Acacia baileyana, Cootamunda Wattle; *A. dealbata*, Silver Wattle; *A. pendula*, Weeping Myall; *Angophora lanceolata*, Gum Myrtle; *Brachybiton populeus*, Bottle-tree; *Callistemon lanceolatus*, Showy Bottle-brush; *C. viminalis*, Weeping Bottle-brush; *Ceratonia*

of his latest edition. For all of this there will be small financial reward; for a book of this nature, which requires some knowledge of plants for its appreciation, has a necessarily limited audience . . . but what an audience! It includes every professional worth his salt, and also the dedicated amateurs

whose work is directed to the harmonious and beautiful development of private and public land. Like ocean waves, the effects of this book will reach far in time and space.

As did Hemingway's "Old Man", Roland Hoyt is husbanding his resources for his next round

with "the big one". It will be "Ornamental Plants For Warm-Temperate Regions", to be followed by similar works on Cool Temperate and Boreal Regions. I hope, for the sake of the lands to the north, that he reaches his goal, and that they learn to appreciate his work as much as we do.

siliqua, Carob; *Eucalyptus globulus compacta*, Compact Blue Gum; *E. lehmanni*, Bushy Yate; *E. polyanthemos*, Red-box; *E. sideroxylon rosea*, Pink Iron-bark; *Harpephyllum caffrum*, Kafir-plum; *Ilex aquifolium*, English Holly; *I. opaca*, American Holly; *Ligustrum japonicum* var. *macrophyllum*, Big-leaf Privet; *Melaleuca huegelii*, Honey-myrtle; *M. genistifolia*, Snowy Fleece-tree; *M. leucadendron*, Cajeput Tree; *Metrosideros tomentosa*, New Zealand Christmas Tree; *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine; *Quercus ilex*, Holly Oak; *Q. suber*, Cork Oak.

There are some equally beautiful evergreen trees that should never be planted on a golf course.

Trees to Avoid, and Why

Acacia melanoxylon, Blackwood—an aggressive root system; *Araucaria bidwillii*, Bunya-bunya—it sheds thorny foliage that is difficult to clean off the lawn; *Cinnamomum camphora*, Camphor Tree—has large roots, sheds many leaves; *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, Sugar Gum—has destructive roots, sheds bark, leaves and small branchlets; *E. robusta*, Swamp Gum—drops large leaves continually; *Ficus elastica* and *F. macrophylla*—have tremendous surface roots, shed large leaves and miniature figs most of the time; *Grevillea robusta*, Silk Oak—has the untidy habit of dropping leaves, flowers and seed-pods in steady sequence; *Phytolacca dioica*, Cheesewood or Pokeberry—has very soft wood, limbs that are easily broken, and numerous fallen leaves; *Tristania conferta*, Brisbane Box—sheds leaves, bark and seed capsules throughout the year.

Recommended Conifers

Conifers give a sense of permanence and stability to any landscape. They can be used with excellent results along the sea coast and in the cooler valleys.

Calliiris robusta, Cypress-pine; *Cupressus funebris*, Mourning Cy-

Calatheas For Heartbreak

AUSTIN FARICY REPORTS FROM HONOLULU

A flood of gardening books and articles in recent years have been devoted to the thesis that "X is Easy to Grow" or "Y for Everybody" or "You, Too, Can Succeed With Z".

This little discussion makes no such claim. The Marantaceae are not easy to grow; they are not for everybody; and you may well fail dismally. But in most gardeners there lurks an unquenchable urge to try the impossible, if only for the heck of it . . . and calatheas and marantas can be breathtakingly beautiful.

All are grown for their leaves. The flowers are mere and disappointing; moreover, in some species, their appearance means the ending of that particular growth.

All are highly tropical, wanting continuous warmth and becoming profoundly depressed if it is not forthcoming. All want shade, but preferably bright shade to develop the full sheen of their gorgeous colors and patterns. The leaves, though they look velvety, are thin and hard, and burn easily.

They should be potted in a mixture that water can fall through, and watered frequently, with the leaves wetted freely.

If you can fulfill these personal and environmental qualifications, your next problem is to find the plants. The "rabbit tracks" or "prayer plant" (most marantaceae

fold their leaves upright, to some degree, at night) and the ctenanthes are not hard to find, and I first obtained *Calathea zebrina* in a San Diego nursery, but the rest you will have to keep a look-out for in the rare plant nurseries.

A word about nomenclature. The allocation of these plants is not yet exact, and you will find them variously listed. Graf's "Exotic Plants Illustrated," published by Roehrs, has the advantage of giving a small picture of each plant, so I shall follow it. The following group is by no means exhaustive (Graf lists almost 40) but contains the principal ones I feel qualified to talk about.

First, the three that flourished uncomplaining in San Diego, alternating between lath-house and living-room.

Calathea zebrina. Large (12-18 in.) gracefully shaped leaves with dark zebra stripes and purple reverse. A handsome plant. There is also a less striking form with green reverse, and a smaller, brighter, more tightly patterned one called *C. tigrina*.

Ctenanthe oppenheimiana tricolor. 3-4 in. leaves on thin stems, combed green and white and occasionally rose. Red reverse. Sprightly.

Maranta leuconeura kerchoviana. Rabbit tracks. Prayer plant. Dwarf growing, 2-3 in., leaves

(Please turn to Page 11, Col. 2)

press; *C. sempervirens*, Italian Cypress; *Libocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar; *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pine; *P. halepensis*, Aleppo Pine; *P. pinea*, Stone Pine; *Pinus radiata*, Monterey Pine; *P. torreyana*, Torrey Pine; *Taxus baccata*, English Yew; *Thuja occi-*

dentalis, American Arbor-vitae; *T. orientalis*, Oriental Arbor-vitae; *T. plicata*, Giant Arbor-vitae.

To all landscape architects in this area: "Why not try some of these trees? You will create a more attractive golf course, while holding maintenance costs down."

How Roses Are Judged

HELEN D. CARSWELL

Consulting Rosarian, American Rose Society

San Diego will open the 1959 Rose Show Season in America, when the San Diego Rose Society, an affiliated member of the American Rose Society and the San Diego Floral Association, will stage its annual Spring Rose Show at Conference Hall, Balboa Park, April 11-12. The theme will be: Roses in Orbit. The general chairman is J. J. Kenneally, assisted by J. W. Trott.

While viewing a rose show, one often hears such remarks as: "Here's a much better rose than the blue-ribbon winner", "This rose must be six inches across, wonder why it did not get a ribbon?", "What makes that rose with the blue-ribbon better than the others?" and a host of similar remarks, all of which lead one to believe that gardeners, and perhaps the exhibitors, have little idea of the points that go to make a *winning show rose*.

It is basic to consider that the event is a Show, and subtle skill in Showmanship must be used to display every specimen to best advantage. *Grooming* is a controversial subject in the rose world, but who ever heard of a girl entering a beauty contest without, say, combing her hair? It is true you can "Fool the Judges", for it has been done at times, but, in general, *overgrooming*, as in the use of oil to polish leaves and hide mildew, fools no one, not even the novice who views a rose show for the first time, nor the old lady who has her wrong glasses along.

Two important principles govern rose judging; that the rose be exhibited in the *most perfect phase* of its possible beauty, and that judges make awards *as the rose is*

seen, not as it may be when the show opens, or as it is hoped it may look when VIPs are scheduled to arrive several hours later.

The standard of rose judging to be used in this show, and that used in most rose shows in the USA, is the American Rose Society Judging Rules. An organization now in its 60th year, the ARS has used these rules in all parts of the country and has the benefit of nationwide experience and knowledge during more than half a century.

Size of the rose is least important, being awarded only ten points in the total score of 100. Size must be representative for the variety shown. An oversized bloom or a tiny one, no matter how "sweet", would lose points, if it were out of line for that variety. A tiny Peace or a huge Picture would be examples of roses that would not get 10 points for size.

Substance of a rose, that is its freshness, life and crispness, gets 20 points. Some judges feel that this is the most important quality of a rose; for on its substance hinges its durability and ability to hold up the form and color, each of which rates 25 points.

To judge the *color* of a rose

means that the judge must be familiar with the variety and decide how close this specimen approaches the ideal for the variety, not whether the shade is pleasing or displeasing to him. People who have personal prejudices, such as favoring red roses, or cringing at the thought of a tan or a blue rose, do not make good judges.

Form means the arrangement of the petals and shape of the bloom. Here styles change with the years. The big fat cabbage rose of Grandma's day has been replaced by the more graceful, long, pointed, high-centered rose, with a symmetrical arrangement of petals.

Stem and *foliage* get the balance of 20 points. It should go without saying that to be of show quality, a rose must be free of blemishes and disease, and be typical of the variety. Since the rose must be correctly named, except in special classes for unidentified blooms, foliage is often the clue to a mis-named specimen. Judges will notice the color of the foliage and if it is glossy or dull. The stem should be strong enough to hold the bloom up and be in proportion to its size. No standard is set as to the exact length of stem. It is left



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to the judge in each case to decide if the length of stem is in proportion to the bloom. Many people, perhaps remembering flowers from a florist, think that very long stems are a favorable point. A small bloom on a long stem, a large one on a short stem, or an average bloom on an unduly long stem, are out of proportion.

Since the goal in showing roses is to display them at their stage of greatest beauty, and form is given one quarter of the total value, *buds are not judged*; they have not yet displayed the beauty of the rose form and the arrangement of the petals. Often a graceful bud opens to show a deformity of petal arrangement, or it may open up to a fine specimen several hours after the judging and be the rose that brings up the remark, "Was this one overlooked?" The judge must appraise the bloom as he sees it.

In viewing a rose show it is well to remember that the judges first seek the rose that is closest to its *stage of greatest beauty*. According to American Rose Society standards this is set as: "Usually when the bloom is one-half to three-quarters open." A full blown rose will lose points on form and possibly on color and substance too.

Following the rose show with schedule in hand, and knowing the specifications for each class, is the best way to get the most out of a rose show. Many beautiful roses have to be disqualified as they are entered in the wrong class; for example, a grandiflora in the hybrid tea class, or one in the wrong color group.

1959 will have a bumper crop of rose shows, one almost every week-end along the Pacific Coast. Two important dates are The Pacific Rose Society show, 175 North Los Robles Street, Pasadena, on April 25-26, and the San Francisco Rose Show, in the City Hall, May 10. Go north and "follow the Spring, with Roses."

Quail Park, A Potential Botanical Garden

Dorothy S. Behrends

A few years ago, Mrs. Ruth Larabee donated her home and twenty-six acres of land around it to the County of San Diego to be used by the public and to be known as "Quail Park." The Park is located on the left side of Amersfoort Street on San Marcos Road in Encinitas. Around the handsome residence is an extensive cactus and succulent garden with citrus and avocado trees down the hill. About a third of the rolling slopes of this scenic site is in native plants, a natural habitat for the quail, that give the park its name.

Practically nothing has been done with this land to date, because it is not suited to playground purposes, or for baseball fields or other games. As there are no parking or sanitary facilities, its present use is confined to sightseers.

At the initial meeting in August of an informal group, called the Quail Park Project Study Committee, it was agreed to invite Dr. William S. Stewart, Director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, in Arcadia, to confer with the group on September 25, with Mr. Gerald Cullison, Chief of the Parks and Beach Division, Dept. of Recreation, as host.

Dr. Stewart attended the second meeting and, after a tour over the grounds, was greatly enthused over the natural setting and contour of the land, which seemed well suited to the sectional and specialized plantings of an Arboretum.

He advised that a Planning Committee be appointed to outline the objectives of such a venture, which could then be presented to

the Board of Supervisors. Then the County landscape architect could draw plans for a feasible layout to include a show or meeting hall and the necessary parking and sanitary facilities. He strongly urged that a long range program be considered, because large quarters would be needed eventually, to care for the new residents of San Diego County.

Dr. William B. Storey, of the staff of the University of California Citrus Experimental Station, at Riverside, was present, and expressed his views on the type of grounds and plantings that were most attractive to visitors to the Hawaiian Botanical Gardens. He said that plant material for Quail Park could be obtained from propagations of avocados from UCLA.

Mr. Paul Ecke of Leucadia, well known for his extensive work with poinsettias, outlined the ease of maintenance that could be attained with proper trenching of the more shallow soil, and with the proper installation of an irrigation system. This was an important suggestion for successful, and relatively low cost care.

Mr. N. E. Westree, of Carlsbad, advocated allocating possibly five or six acres to sub-tropical fruit and nut trees. These plantings should be arranged so that visitors could circulate freely in the groves, to view the unusual trees and fruits they have often read about "back home." He offered to donate trees, as did Col. Wells Miller of Vista, nurseryman and president of the California Macadamia Society.

Mrs. Esther Nesbin of Escondido, president of the Palomar

Cactus and Succulent Society, said her group would help with upkeep.

Dr. Dorothy Meirs, teacher of botany at Palomar College has offered to name and label the existing cactus and succulents.

Mr. Dale T. Wood of Vista and Leucadia, representing the Audubon Society, encouraged additional plantings of native plants where the quail sanctuary is to be maintained. Visitors' trails and small areas for bird watchers should be established.

Those who attended this meeting felt that Quail Park should be of interest to all people, whether they are active participants who wish to donate plants or services, or county residents and tourists, who would also like to visit the park.

It was agreed at this meeting that a full-time gardener should be employed, to maintain the fabulous collection of plants that Mrs. Larabee donated to the park.

Mrs. M. J. von Preissig of Vista (PALace 4-4795) is the temporary chairman of this informal group, with Mrs. Paul Behrends of Encinitas (PLateau 3-3453) as temporary secretary of the Quail Park Project Study Committee.

A permanent organization will be formed in the near future, to formulate plans for a botanical garden, to serve the public in the way for which this land is best suited. Anyone wishing additional information or desiring to volunteer help, may contact either of the aforementioned officers.

—From the San Diego Citizen

Calathea for Heartbreak

(Continued from Page 8)

light green with chocolate blotches.

The remaining seven will try your patience and may break your heart, but if you get them in good condition for a while your chest will swell with pride and your head swim with their beauty:

Calathea insignis. Narrow leaves, 4-12 in., zigzagged with olive green, maroon reverse. Striking leaf shape, as well as pattern.

Calathea lietzei. Feathered light and dark green 2-in. leaves, branching on thin stems that make new plants. Easy to propagate; needs frequent manicuring.

Calathea louisae. Like *C. lietzei* in color and pattern, but larger (5-in.) single leaves.

Calathea makoyana. Low-growing, almost stemless. Oval 6-in. leaves, light green combed with dark green, and peacock spotted. The spots are translucent, and the pattern is repeated on the red reverse: an amazing performance.

Calathea ornata roseo-lineata. Dull, deep olive-green leaves, narrow, 4 in., with pink indented pencil-stripes. I have yet to see a flourishing specimen, but even a few leaves are interesting.

Calathea picta (mine came to me as *C. warszewiczii*, but in the Graf picture definitely matches *G. picta*). Velvety leaf 6-8 in., beautiful fresh green with gold-green zigzag along the center. Ravishingly beautiful, but exasperatingly hard to keep in good condition. Deteriorates and dies down after flowering, then starts new growth. Worth all your pains.

Calathea picturata vandenheckei. Flat growing, melon-shaped leaf 2-6 in., dark green with silver skunk-stripes. Charming but capricious. One sent to me in San Diego from Florida did not survive the trip. Used as a ground cover in the Foster Gardens greenhouse in Honolulu, but sulks for me only a half mile away.

MARY A. GREER LIBRARY

NEW BOOKS

Reviewed by Barbara Cole, La Jolla

BONSAI, by Norio Kobayashi. *Japan Travel Bureau, Tokyo, Japan. \$3.90.* Tourist Library Series, No 15.

Like all of the books in this delightful series concerning the various aspects of Japanese life, **BONSAI** is authoritative, well written, and well illustrated. It will answer briefly but well those questions that a westerner would ask about this art of dwarfing miniature trees. The author has been publisher and editor of "Bonsai," the most influential magazine on the subject in this country, since its inception 30 years ago.

LANDSCAPE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT, by Naida Gilmore Hayes. *Studio Publications, Inc., Crowell Co., New York. \$3.50.*

The value of this book is in the novelty of its landscaping approach to flower arrangement. The interesting examples done by the author will inspire the arranger to new compositions. Naida is generous in divulging her secrets of handling the materials she uses.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL GARDENS, by Roland Hoyt is reviewed on page 6.

Mr. Hoyt's book may be ordered from the S.D.F.A., Balboa Park, San Diego.

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Leaves From An Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

Henry and I sat side by side on the steps of the back terrace. The terrace leads off the living room onto the lawn which is so delightfully interspersed with California live oaks.

We had been silent for some time when Henry said, "But why?"

For a moment I thought foggily, what were we discussing?

When Henry continued, "But why so pensive?"

I breathed a sigh of relief, glad that I had not missed a beat after all. "Well, I was wondering what you would call the breath-taking brilliance of a yellow acacia tree in full bloom?"

Henry gazed at the faraway line of yellow acacias dividing our property from our good neighbors.

"How about 'lavish laughter'?" he asked.

I broke into smiles. "Amazingly satisfactory," I chortled.

"Who — me?" Henry questioned.

"Yes, you primarily, but this description makes it a double deal. We need just that—lavish laughter—to carry an arid country through a meager spring. Bless the supreme effort that the acacias are making this parched year."

By the time I was halfway

through my sentence, Henry was halfway across the lawn. When he reached the acacia trees he produced a pair of clippers from the pocket of his blue denim jacket, always worn for gardening.

I sat and watched while he cut an armful of acacia branches, with which I mentally filled the brass bowl in the hall. As he turned to come back I disappeared with speed into the house and reappeared with the brass bowl. I was filling it with water from a nearby standpipe when Henry deposited the mass of yellow branches on the terrace and himself on the steps.

The delicate fragrance of the flowers was delicious as I reached over to arrange them. "Isn't there a perfume made from the acacia blossoms?" I asked.

"Yes," Henry answered, "and the British call the blossoms and the perfume 'mimosa.' Texas grows the fragrant, perfume-producing kind."

"Texas would! For if you can't find it elsewhere, look in Texas."

"It is a thorny shrub called *far-nesiana*," continued Henry. "California's best acacias came from Australia, where they are gaily called Broom Wattle, Green Wattle, and Golden Wattle. You see, their branches were used as wattles for fence poles, and for supports for thatched roofs."

"Old San Diego had the grace to line many of its streets with Blackwood Acacias. Wander through the older parts of town and bless the early City Fathers as you go. Many species of acacia thrive now in Balboa Park."

"Didn't we have some Blackwood Acacias on the ranch?" I asked.

"A whole row lined the west road. When we sold those acres the new owners discarded the Blackwood Acacias and planted palms, of all things!"

"I remember there was 'weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth' from you! Where else do acacias grow?" I asked, leaning back to view my handiwork.

"Oh, in the southerly, temperate climates of the world. Tropical America has a group known as Bull-horn Acacias. All acacias are fast growing, but they are short-lived. Some make good shade trees."

Having delivered his oration, Henry rose, yawned, stretched himself, and started for the house.

"Please don't go," I coaxed.

"Stay your sheets out!"

"And eat a bite o-pie?"

"What kind shall it be?"

"Apple. Is there any other?"

"Not according to you and the State of Maine. Still, you do have a choice to make. Shall it be open-face, cross-cut or kiver-top?"

Henry laughed his best infectious laugh and said, "Remember the delightful story about Aunt Mary the day she took Louise to lunch at the Parker House in Boston and they served apple pie without the cheese mentioned in the menu?"

After recounting his pet story Henry was about to leave me to laugh alone, but beckoning him back, I pointed to the brass bowl.

He looked at it as if he were trying to think of some reason why he should not carry it into the house. Finding none, he sighed resignedly, picked up the bowl, and after my holding the door open for him, we made the triumphal entry into the house together.

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“As The Twig Is Bent”

ALICE M. CLARK

To the strains of a lively march, the Seedling Gardeners troop into the Floral Building in Balboa Park for their morning meeting, on alternate Saturdays. Between fifty and sixty boys and girls, from seven to twelve years, form a large circle. After a snappy salute to the flag, and a Conservation or Junior Gardener pledge, they sing rousing songs with their peppy leader, Mrs. Ernest Ambort.

Rarely is a gardener so imbued with the conviction that every child should know the factual and practical, as well as the artistic and esthetic usefulness of the plant world around him. Although she has two girls, who are in the class, this leader manages the following time-consuming details of her project in addition to the care of her family.

With the aid of a hectograph, she produces hundreds of clear and easily read programs, riddles and games for the group. She cuts paper patterns for various purposes, such as leaves that are colored, marked with the child's name, and slipped into a big paper tree to indicate attendance at each meeting. Walnut shells make turtle backs that look very real, and what tasty snacks the walnut meats are!

Mrs. Ambort improvises graphic methods of teaching. She did an exceptionally clear and objective demonstration of how to plant a rose. A deep corrugated box, with the ends of one side cut and dropped down over the front edge of a table, represented the hole.

Earth was heaped up inside the box by one of the children, until the group decided that the cone was high enough to fit the roots of a bare-root specimen rose, already properly pruned. Plants are obtained for each meeting. If they are large, the students draw for them, if small plants, they are divided among the children. Cigar boxes are collected, as well as cheese and milk cartons, aluminum pie tins and tin cans for the growing plants and seeds.

Programs overflow with variety: posters for Clean-up and Fix-up time; bird walks, combined with bird pictures and riddles; bulb planting; May baskets, and corsage making; flower arrangements and a Flower Show; a Mother's Day tea and a day for Fathers, later; "Flowers of the Month"; dish garden planting—one to take home and one for a shut-in; gourd seeds to harvest in the fall; pumpkin seeds to grow for Halloween lanterns; Conservation; weaving mats from leaves, reeds and grasses; picnic lunches and walks to collect leaves (with an easy way to imprint their shapes on paper), study trees and learn plant names; and an exhibit at the Del Mar Fair, for which the children have been working hard to raise colorful flowers.

The job of providing transportation, from at least eight districts, would defeat most chairmen right at the start. Like a conjurer, Mrs. Ambort balances phone calls until she finds enough cars to get her charges to and from the park, not

RECOMMENDED:—

FRUITS FOR SOUTHERN FLORIDA, A HANDBOOK FOR THE HOMEOWNER, by David Sturrock. *Southeastern Printing Co., Inc., Stewart, Florida, 1959, \$4.00.*

This book is a rewriting of "Tropical Fruits of Southern Florida and Cuba," published in 1940, by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. In non-technical language it brings the reader up-to-date on the progress that has been made in the introduction of new fruits, selection and improvement of long raised species, and the improvements in cultural methods for these plants, in Southern Florida. The book is as much for the gastronome or dietician as for the person interested in raising these fruits, because such information on uses (jellies, jams and preserves), as well as vitamin and mineral content of the various fruits is presented. While many of the plants which grow well in Southern Florida will not succeed here, because of our lower humidity and cooler nights, the book does serve as a reference work on those fruits which we do grow in southern California, and should also inspire some intrepid gardeners to risk trying some fruits new to the area.

If you believe that the extra flavor and vitamin content of home-ripened fruits is worth the effort it takes to raise them, this book is for you.

—Reviewed by Ed Roach.

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counting the eight she brings herself. This accomplished, she carries on her inspiring programs with the occasional help of one or more Floral Association members, who are amazed by her enterprise.

In addition to talent for planning programs and attention to delightful details, Mrs. Ambort has a fine singing voice and an uncanny ability to teach her group new songs in what seems "no time at all." She believes so thoroughly that singing together makes working together more fun, that she transports a phonograph to provide the music each time. She knows how to hold attention in any project she takes up.

Understanding a child's nature, this natural leader never lets an enterprise drag; she alternates periods of activity and rest. She watches for participation by each child and has a keen appreciation of his contribution, while making an understanding allowance for variations in age and sex.

These classes are financed by the Floral Association, plus ten cents per child, per time — when he remembers to bring it. The leader's astonishing skill at "making do" with leftovers and natural means at hand is most commendable. The true simplicity with which a problem is approached and solved, marks the genius of this born teacher.

Shining faces, eager queries and increasing attendance, show the value of these Seedling Garden Classes, as conducted by Mrs. Ambort. She is the local chairman of the Junior Garden Clubs of California Garden Clubs, Inc., in this area. As far as we know, these classes have never been made such an outstanding production before. The Floral Association feels that the achievements and methods of this Junior Garden chairman should be broadcast to all garden organizations, so that more Senior groups may try to extend the same benefits to more young gardeners.

Garden Chores

ADA PERRY

Times change, all right. I never used to be able to stand Liberace, being the type of female who mistrusts handsome men. But Boy, Oh, Boy, in the resting time after lunch on days off, do I fly to Mr. Liberace's station! What a welcome refuge from the soap operas! What a relief from those interminable games! You'd think they'd try music more often. Or does it have to come with perfect teeth, I wonder?

Times change with plants, too. U's old timers are beginning to gasp for breath a couple of times, and admit that succulents should be allowed to do a garden job, also shrubs with insignificant flowers, also foliage plants. I liked that business with crassula (that fat-stemmed jade plant that looks like a shampoo when it's in bloom) and plummy melianthus stuck behind it. And what do you think of red flax bordered by a rusty red-tinted succulent and the light salmon pink upright geranium?

This February day of the 18th, after two rains is no guide to what the weather will be like when *California Garden* comes out, but I would like to state that my non-refrigerated tulip bulbs are way behind the refrigerated ones in sprouting. I have them planted in crimp gallon cans on the north

side of a big toyon, inside a former puppy pen. The non-refrig's sure look reluctant.

The toyon has not been cleaned of berries by helpful birds, like last year, and is fighting like fury with my pet purple iceplant. But at least this is not the problem they have in San Francisco, 'cording to a new gal down where I work. Up there, the berries ferment and cause any number of disgracefully drunk robins, lolling all over the gardens.

The lack of helpful birds may be a blessing in disguise that will result in some apricot crops this year. And I think I've discovered, also, that Purina Dog Chow is a fine lure to keep sparrows off the apricot blossom buds in January and February. I mentioned the puppy pen conveniently turned into a protecting frame for canned tulips. Well, those same puppies eat this chow for breakfast and lunch, and in between times the sparrows have been rattling away at the left overs on the tin plates and never even getting down as far as the apricots. No charge for the plug, Purina. I'm just happy it turned out this way.

Summer will be coming on and I think it's important for us container gardeners to remember that clay pots are better for plants which like warm dry roots. It would seem to be a good idea to think twice before putting a fern or azalea into a clay pot for the summer, unless the pot can be set in a place that stays cool and shady. A good solution for potted azaleas in summer is a frame filled with wood shavings or peat. Or a redwood planter could be used for this. The five gallon tin in which the azalea was purchased is a very good container for it. Plants can dry out in tin cans, all right,

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but not as fast. The redwood tubs keep most plants happy if the watering is gaged right.

Most of us have been monkeying with redwood containers long enough to have a supply of them, like garden furniture. But there are never too many, so I discovered that digging out camellia Bernice Boddy from her tub where she had formed a nice root ball, did not necessarily mean a size larger tub. She had eaten up about three inches of her soil mixture and so was perfectly satisfied with enough fresh mixture on the bottom and some on the sides to bring her up to newly planted level. No, you do NOT add an extra three inches of soil to the top of a container. How would you like somebody to put a high collar around your neck when you need shoes on your feet? If you are going to move azaleas and camellias, now's the time—before they start getting new leaves.

An encouraging influence on container gardening appeared down where I work some two years ago. He's Mr. Larry Sharpe from the east coast. Where you don't have the right soil or enough room to grow the plants you want, grow them in containers—lots of us have taken this course in our gardening activities. Mr. Sharpe started working at it with some of the techniques he knew and some blasted out of surprised local residents. (Perhaps others, like myself, were a little in doubt about their container-growing tendencies.) Anyway, it's reasonable to say he creates four lovely gardens a year at a small home in La Jolla,

mostly by means of containers.

It's interesting to note his reason for poor draining soil here—no frost and snow to buckle and aerate it. He got so disgusted with our soils that he joined sides with the U of C and invented a mix without soil, composed of bark, coarse mountain leaf mold, sand, Nitro-humus (processed sewage), compost and peat.

An inch of gravel over the pot pieces in redwood tubs is one of his recommendations and it was interesting to see that a fine camellia, Buddha, last week from one of our best wholesale growers had just that in the bottom of the egg can which was cut open to tub the plant. There was strong, even root growth all around the outside of the ball, too, in soil that seemed to be entirely leaf mold and sand.

My own adventures in container gardening go along apace. Think I'm going to recommend the Dombeya, (usually a tree) for a large leafed container plant like the Sparmannia. My tubbed Sparmannia is quite a successful character right beside the meter box and hasn't gotten out of hand like some of the ground-grown specimens "I heard tell of." The Dombeya in a five gallon can has stood confinement very well and does not mind being pruned back hard every spring after blooming.

Meter box plants are important to most people but there is also a drain and sewer right of way out my way. I craved to plant *Acacia verticillata* and *A. armata* because I can still hear Miss Session's clear-as-a-bell remarks about them. But those water and sewer diggers had

already sat on a blue pfitzer with a tractor and pulled out an *Acacia cultriformis* and covered up some experimental avocados. So, grinning like a fox, I planted *A. verticillata* in a tub at the curb, and *A. armata*, brown flax and *Eucalyptus perriniana* in three tubs in a row to front for the right away. "They won't have to dig those up," I said, "if it's necessary, six of 'em can move the tubs easy."

Well, service men appearing from time to time seem charmed with the arrangement and one of them tenderly waters the daylighters out of the plants while flushing out the drain or whatever he does.

I'm going to try Dowpon at the dichondra strength this spring for around trees and ornamentals—that's not over 2 oz. to 1000 square feet, and if it kills bermuda in dichondra that should be enough around any other plant.

The free Garden Class that Walter Andersen started down under his rubber tree really turned out for the pruning demonstrations this January. I was pleased because the subject interests us all and it's one that has many interesting applications. So we're going to try to include pruning of anything that is timely. We go slow and discuss it and we'll be happy to have any or all join us any Thursday morning at 10:30 under the rubber tree, which, incidentally has been heavily pruned.

A reminder—discuss and recheck your gardening activities as much as you can. No one knows all the answers and there's always something new to be learned or—old, to be remembered.

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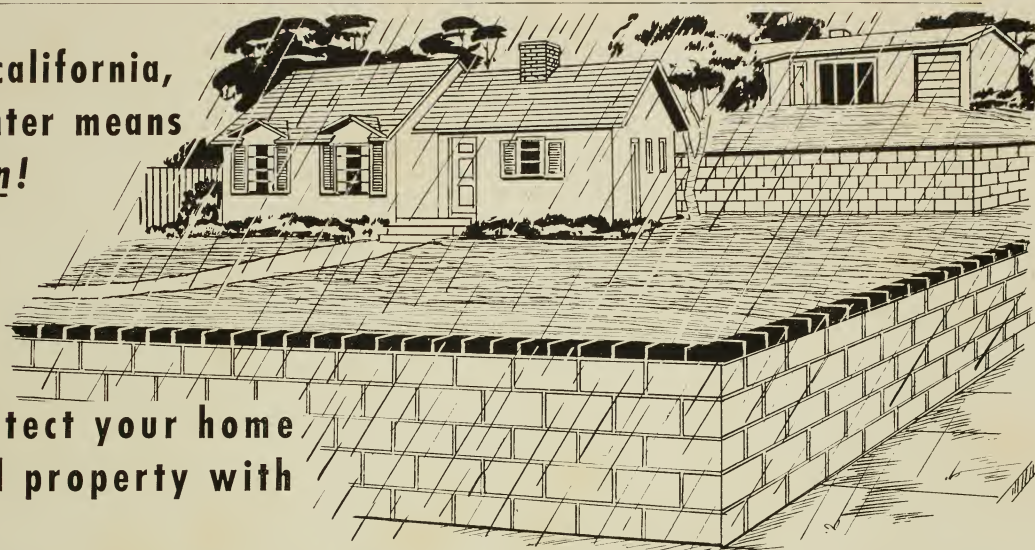
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